

Minutes of the November Meeting of **Shincliffe Parish Council** held in **Shincliffe Primary School, High Shincliffe, Durham** on **Tuesday 19 November 2013** at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Duell (in the Chair) and Councillors Hudson, A Lee, G Lee, Lightley, Lovell, and Olechnowicz.

There were 2 members of the public present.

92. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

93. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Stoker and PC Cockburn.

94. Minutes

Resolved: that the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 15 October 2013 (copies previously circulated and publicised) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair following an amendment to - 79 (Horticultural Committee Update) to reflect that Councillor Stoker had previously made a commitment for a small contribution.

95. Matters Arising

- (a) DCC Community Governance Review – The Chairman advised that Durham County Council had agreed to the transfer of the Bell Ward to Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council and that this would be implemented in April/May 2014. Councillor Lovell however would remain on Shincliffe Parish Council until his term of office expired.
- (b) Barriers – Councillor Lightley reported that the barriers outside the playing field were still being left open. As a result, a request had been made to put a lock on them.

96. Police Report

As PC Cockburn had submitted his apologies for absence, he provided the Clerk with the following written update which was read out:

One crime had been recorded since the last meeting of the Parish Council (15/11/13) – Theft of wooden gates from a field at Manor Farm, Shincliffe. PC Cockburn had been lead to believe that the gates were located in a garden nearby, after being discarded by the suspect (s).

97. County Councillor Update

As Councillor Stoker had submitted his apologies for absence, he provided the Chairman with the following written report which was read out:

- (a) Shincliffe Bridge - There were a number of warning signs already, but the 'Slow' sign on the road was faded and badly positioned. The Council would therefore put an additional 'Slow' sign on the road, but positioned on the slope of the bridge (rather than the flat), making it more visible.
- (b) Avenue pavement - Following a site visit, the Council had agreed that the Parish Council could have offset railings across the pavement at end of path on corner of the Avenue pub. The cost was likely to be £500. The County Council suggested that the cost be shared between Parish Council and Councillor's budget.

It was **resolved:** that the cost of the railings be shared between the Parish Council and Cllr Stoker's

budget at a cost of approximately £250.00 each.

Thanks were extended to Cllr G Lee for both his initiative and persuasion in relation to this matter.

(c) St. Mary's Close (1) - As predicted in previous discussions, the land ownership was confused. It appeared that the County Council's Assets team had a map showing Council ownership to be less than was maintained by the Council, and less than Councillor Lightley's map. It was unclear which had legal precedence. Councillor Stoker therefore sought the Parish Council's advice on how best to bring these together for resolution. An earlier suggestion of an informal meeting between representatives of the two Councils may be an appropriate next step. The Parish Council welcomed this proposal and it was **resolved**: that an informal meeting take place.

(d) St. Mary's Close (2) - A large van had accidentally reversed into a hedge. The owner accepted liability and the Council were ready to reinstate, when the cost triggered the company into going through its insurers. Councillor Stoker had asked the Council's insurance team to chase this as a matter of urgency.

98. Correspondence

(a) Matters arising from last month's correspondence

There were no matters arising.

(b) Correspondence to circulate for discussion/decision at next parish council meeting

1. Separate Collection of waste paper, metal, glass and plastic: Letter to Local Authority Bodies
2. Residential Care Homes Consultation
3. Neighbourhood Protection Team Update
4. The County Durham Local Access Forum
5. Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Invitation to Town and Parish Councils
6. Christmas and New Year bin collections 2013/2015
7. Next Smaller Local Councils Forum
8. Centenary of WW1 – Renovation and Conservation of War Memorials
9. Durham Association Newsletter (Issue 45 – November 2013)
10. Next CDALC Durham Area Meeting
11. Campaign to protect Rural England North East Newsletter (Autumn 2013)
12. Inclusive Play for all leaflet
13. Proludic Brochure (Play and Sport areas)
14. War Memorials Trust Bulletin
15. Clerks and Councils Direct (November 2013)
16. Review of the Statement of Licensing Act 2003 Policy

(c) Current Correspondence

1. Letter from a resident regarding some street lights not working. This issue would be referred to the County Council.
2. Email from a resident regarding cyclists not using Cycle Paths. This issue would be referred to the Community Police with a view of them speaking to cyclists when patrolling the area.

99. Planning Applications

CE/13/01235/FPA	Mr P Short	8 Bromley Close High Shincliffe Durham DH1 2TZ	Provision of pitched roof over existing flat roofed areas to front of existing dwelling
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It was **resolved**: that there was no objection in respect of the above planning application.

The following planning applications were circulated as an addendum to the agenda:

CE/13/01234/FPA	Mr J Warburton	6 Avenue Street High Shincliffe Durham DH1 2PT	Detached pre-fabricated garage
CE/13/01163/FPA	Mr M Last	4 Beech View Sherburn House Durham Dh1 2SF	Dormer windows to rear elevation
CE/13/00959/FPA	Mr Jones	7-8 Prospect Terrace Shincliffe Durham DH1 2NR	Render to front and rear elevations

It was **resolved**: that any objections in respect of the above planning applications would be submitted to the Chairman.

100. Horticultural Committee Update

- (a) The Chair of the Committee had circulated the minutes of the recent meetings to all Members of the parish Council for information.
- (b) Two tubs had been stolen from the entrance to Ancroft Garth the previous week. Despite these tubs not containing any flowers, they were still filled with soil, which was emptied out by the thieves. As a result, the Horticultural Committee will consider replacing these with heavy tubs and possibly even marked 'High Shincliffe'.
- (c) Councillor A Lee had purchased end of seasons pansies for half price at a cost of £30.00 from Darlington Borough Council. These would be used to plant some more tubs.
- (d) Beautiful Durham – As a £40 voucher had been received as part of the Beautiful Durham Award a suggestion had been made to use this to buy bulbs and that these possibly be planted in the shape of a 'D'. This would be designed in such a way that it was obvious the display was there when the County Council cut the grass. It was also hoped that this display could be added to year on year.
- (e) Councillor A Lee had placed an article in the St. Mary's Parish Newsletter seeking views of residents in relation to the Northumbria in Bloom competition. In addition to this, a request was made for the donation of any plants or help with gardening with a view of increasing community engagement with the Parish Council.

101. AAP Update

Councillor Lightley reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting however over 500 people had turned up. Several presentations had been delivered at this meeting.

102. Shincliffe Village

This item of business had been discussed within the County Councillor update.

103. Shincliffe Village Recreation Ground – Damaged wall

The Clerk reported that all information had now been obtained which was required by the Insurance Company in order to submit a claim form. The claim would therefore be submitted the following day.

The Chairman advised that Councillor Olechnowicz and himself had met with Ian Wilmshurst (Dean and Chapter) to discuss what would be required to rebuild the wall. Some of the material could be re-used from damaged wall. This would be submitted to the Insurance Assessor when required.

It was **resolved**: that a further update be given at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

104. Overgrown Trees – Survey to be undertaken

The Clerk reported that contact had been made with Oliver's to undertake a tree survey in December. This survey would be undertaken on Monday 9 December.

It was **resolved**: that this item of business would be discussed again at the next meeting once the survey had been undertaken.

105. Litter Pick - Update

Councillor G Lee reported that the Litter Pick had taken place on Saturday 9 November 2013 at 10.00am. Approximately twenty volunteers participated, many of these being from the Avenue Inn Football Team. Around thirty bags of rubbish were collected on Monday 11 November, therefore the Litter Pick had been extremely successful.

Concerns had been raised in relation to fly tipping on Strawberry Lane.

Thanks were extended to all those involved and also to those who had participated in the past but who had stepped aside to give other volunteers an opportunity to participate.

Councillor A Lee suggested that an information sheet be posted on Parish Council notice boards providing details of future Litter Picks, together with information on who to contact should they wish to take part. The Parish Council agreed that this was an excellent idea.

106. Accounts

K Cuthbert (Salary November)	£245.08	
HMRC income tax payment	£61.20	
DCC – hire of hall for meeting	£30.36	
Lavender Web Design	£27.92	
CDALC (Local Councils Explained)	£46.81	
Cllr A Lee (Reimbursement – Pansies)	£30.00	
Darlington Borough Council	£1095.98	

Resolved: that the above accounts be paid.

107. Date of next Meeting

The December parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 December 2013 in St Mary's Church Hall, Shincliffe Village, Durham at 7.00 pm.

108. Any Other Business – Members of the Public

- (a) Speed Limits – An issue was raised in relation to the speed limit from Bowburn Garage (60 mph) which then changed to 40 mph right on the entrance into High Shincliffe. The bus stop on this road was felt to be extremely dangerous and as a result it was felt that the speed limit should be reviewed by the County Council. Although there was a speeding visor sign further down the road in High Shincliffe, vehicles often passed this exceeding the speed limit. In addition, the speed signs were difficult to see in the summer months because of shrubs. A suggestion was made that the signs be posted 100 yards further back to give drivers more warning and that the speed restriction from the garage be reviewed and decreased down to 40mph with repeater signs along the road. The Parish Council agreed with all of these concerns and suggestions and agreed that the Chairman would discuss the issue with Councillor Stoker.

109. Any Other Business – Councillors

- (a) Bus Service – Councillor Olechnowicz advised of problems in relation to the bus service, in particular that some services were not running. It was felt that at the very least, the timetable needed to be amended. Councillor Olechnowicz agreed to raise this issue with Councillor Stoker.
- (b) Gritting of Roads - Councillor Olechnowicz agreed to contact the County Council regarding this.
- (c) Love Lane – Reports had been made that branches had been cut down from overgrown trees in Love Lane and left there. Concerns were therefore raised that this could become a dumping ground and that this problem could be further exasperated with changes to garden waste collections. Contact would therefore be made with the Avenue Inn Football Team to see if they could occasionally clear the area.
- (d) Old Mine Site – Councillor Lightley circulated a copy of the original survey undertaken of the site. The Chairman advised that Durham Wildlife Trust had undertaken a survey earlier in the year and agreed to see whether he could receive a copy of these results.
- (e) Whitwell Colliery – Councillor Lightley advised that this was a Shincliffe Local History Society Publication and was available to purchase at a cost of £7.00. The Clerk would put a notice in Parish Council Notice Boards.
- (f) Budget – The Chairman asked that Councillors and the Horticultural Committee give consideration to any expenditure they think necessary for the next financial year for discussion/decision at the next meeting before the precept was set and finalised.

The meeting terminated at 8.10 pm